

I Love to tell the story,
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His Glory.
Of Jesus and His Love.

I love to tell the story,
Because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings,
As nothing else can do.

—Katherine Hankey

But what if there wasn't a Jesus?

Recently pastor Perry called me and left a message ' give me a call I have a question '.

As I awaited a suitable time to respond I contemplated a dozen possible questions he might be about to pose however writing a segment of Daily Meditation was possibly number 13 of 12 possibilities. In my eventual telephone conversation with Perry I made no immediate commitment but agreed to at least consider the possibility.

The first step was too ' google ' meditation. I was relieve to find that whereas indeed the term does have a religious connotation there is strong evidence that people have been meditating for centuries. Despite the longevity of the practice it remains a difficult activity to define so as one who studied a few years of the ' dead language' I've chosen the relatively simple Latin meaning " to think deeply about something "

The second step then would be to choose that ' something '. Although we have recently celebrated the Ascension and Trinity Sunday both challenging concepts I thought I would go directly to the ' big one ' and respond to Perry's question with my own question ' What if there wasn't a Jesus ? '

The intention of this writing is not to debate whether a man who came to be called Jesus of Nazareth actually existed but rather to point out that across the planet earth with a current population of 7.8 billion less than

one third are thought to be Christian. In other words in round numbers well over 5 billion people are Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist , Jews, etc.

Just as most of you reading this probably don't know Brahma (one of the triumvirate of Hindu Gods) it is quite probable that many non-Christians have never heard the name Jesus, maybe numbering in the billions. So, now to the point. The majority of God's people on earth may have never heard of Jesus. *Meditate on that and this:* How different would your life be if you were among that majority who don't have and know the Jesus you believe in.

May we all gather soon and once again sing:

Now we come God's chosen people
Gather in this hallowed place,
With its cross and rising steeple
Pointing upward to God's Grace.

Fill, O Christ, with Love's great wonder
All our frail and faltering faith,
While our minds in silence ponder
On Thy everlasting Truth.

Lift our hearts and set them singing
Praise for God's Almighty Power
Praise for all His Love in bringing
Beauty to each precious hour.

—Flight Lieutenant the Reverend Canon Jack Howard James
(Christ Church Rector 1933-1935)